

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03997 101351Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 101253Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2854

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, TU, GR

SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT TO SCANDINAVIA

REF: (A) ANKARA 7128; (B) STOCKHOLM 3924

1. STOCKHOLM DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET CARRIES INTERVIEW
SEPTEMBER 8 BY PAPER'S CORRESPONDENT IN MIDEAST WITH
PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN WHICH ECEVIT CONFIRMS THAT THE
AMBASSADORS OF FOUR NORDIC COUNTRIES HAD CALLED ON HIM
SEPTEMBER 7 TO REAFFIRM INVITATION TO VISIT SCANDINAVIA
(REF A). IN SAME INTERVIEW, ECEVIT IS QUOTED AS DIS-
COUNTING IMPORTANCE OF LIKELY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST
HIM IN NORDIC COUNTRIES, POINTING OUT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS
"ARE NORMAL IN ALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES." ACCORDING TO
INTERVIEWER, ECEVIT ADDED THAT HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN THE
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS PROTECTION MADE BY THE
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03997 101351Z

HOST COUNTRIES.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR US AND EUROPE (ELIASSON) CONFIRMING THAT VISIT NOW DEFINITELY ON, DISCUSSED WITH US BACKGROUND OF UNCERTAINTY OVER ECEVIT VISIT TO SWEDEN. POINTING OUT THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED MONTHS BEFORE AT POMPIDOU FUNERAL (REF B), ELIASON SAID THE CYPRUS SITUATION, INCLUDING BOTH THE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SWEDISH UNFICYP UNIT AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS HERE BY LARGE GREEK COMMUNITY, HAD CAUSED OFFICIALS HERE (AS WELL AS IN SOME OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES) TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF A VISIT BY THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AT THIS TIME. WHILE ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED FORMALLY AT NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN REYKJAVIK AT END OF AUGUST, IT WAS DISCUSSED IN "CORRIDORS". AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO ELIASSON, A CONSENSUS DEVELOPED THAT THE GOT SHOULD BE "DISCREETLY" URGED TO POSTPONE ECEVIT VISIT TO A LATER DATE. HOWEVER, WHEN ISSUE WAS BROACHED LAST WEEK WITH GOT, (ELIASSON DID NOT SAY AT WHAT LEVEL, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT REGARDED VISIT AS "QUESTION OF PRESTIGE," AND WAS NOT INTERESTED IN POSTPONING IT. AS A RESULT, OPPOSITION OF NORDIC COUNTRIES WAS DROPPED, AND INVITATION WAS REAFFIRMED WHILE AT SAME TIME GOT WAS REMINDED OF LIKELIHOOD OF DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO SWEDISH LEG OF VISIT (SEPT. 23-25), ELIASSON SAID MAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ON DOMESTIC QUESTIONS, SUCH AS EDUCATION AND SOCIAL REFORM RATHER THAN ON FOREIGN POLICY, AS INDICATED BY FACT THAT ECEVIT IS EXPECTED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS OF FINANCE, LABOR AND EDUCATION. ELIASSON NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER PALME HOLDS ECEVIT IN HIGH REGARD, AND PLANS TO SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY OF THE 24TH WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, ELIASSON ADDED THAT GOS IS CONCERNED ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS BY GREEK COLONY HERE, AND THEREFORE SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE STRICTER THAN USUAL FOR VISIT OF THIS NATURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ITINERARY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH03997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0992
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740958/aaaabxaz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) ANKARA 7128; (B) STOCKHOLM 3924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT VISIT TO SCANDINAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SW, TU, GR, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005